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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/471,287	12/23/1999	MAKOTO MIYAGI	0557-4877-2 7229		
22850	7590 02/12/2004		EXAM	INER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			BRINICH, STEPHEN M		
1940 DUKE ALEXANDF	SIREEI NA, VA 22314		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
	•		2624	<u> </u>	
		•	DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004	4 4	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR /	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	١
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER

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Commissioner for Patents

Application No. Applicating No. Application No. Applicant(s) MiYAGI, MAKOTO								
## Examiner Stephen M Brinich 2624 ## The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address → Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE of THIS COMMUNICATION. Eleateuses of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CTR 1.138(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled If the period for rely a specified above, the maximum standary period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MCNTTS from the mailing date of this communication for rely a specified above, the maximum standary period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MCNTTS from the mailing date of this communication for rely application is then three motions after the mailing date of this communication, even if threely filled, may reduce any same of period to the solution of this communication. Any rely reviewed by the fill of the than the three motions after the mailing date of this communication, even if threely filled, may reduce any same of period to the solution in a condition of the communication. Any relationship is application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 41		Application No.	Applicant(s)					
Stephen M Brinich 2624 Period for Reply		09/471,287	MIYAGI, MAKOTO					
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 136(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 136(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Extensions of time may be available under the provision of 37 CFR 1 136(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Extensions of the period for reply appendix of the provision of the period for reply will, by absolute on a statutory prior and visions (35 (d) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication replace and provisions to become ABANDONED (35 13 3). Filed the period for reply appendix of the replace of the communication of the period of the per	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
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1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on	 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any 							
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1.34 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s)	Status							
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Art Unit: 2624

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- Claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, & 26 are rejected under 35
 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted Prior
 Art.

Re claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, & 26, Applicant's admitted

Prior Art (Figure 12) discloses a halftone screen in which the

halftone dot cells are formed by cutting off two facing corners

of square halftone threshold matrices to form non-regular

hexagonal threshold matrices and combining sets of the resulting

hexagonal matrices into a halftone cell.

Allowable Subject Matter

- 3. Claims 9-12 & 21-34 are allowed.
- 4. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 14-16, & 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Re claims 2-3, 6-7, 14-15, 18-19 (and dependent claims 4, 8, 16, 20), the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited threshold value arrangements in a halftone matrix formed by cutting off two facing corners of square halftone threshold matrices to form non-regular hexagonal threshold matrices and combining sets of the resulting hexagonal matrices into a halftone cell.

Re claims 9, 21, 27, 29, 31, & 33 (and dependent claims 1012, 22-24, 28, 30, 32, & 34), the art of record does not teach
or suggest the recited division of hexagonal cells that are
combined into a halftone matrix formed by cutting off two facing
corners of square halftone threshold matrices to form nonregular hexagonal threshold matrices and combining sets of the
resulting hexagonal matrices into a halftone cell.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 703-305-4390. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 7:00-4:30, alternate Fridays off.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 Customer Service center at 703-306-0377.

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be contacted at 703-308-7452.

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 703-872-9306.

Stephen M Brinich

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February 5, 2004